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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

The IASSIST *Newsletter* represents an international cooperative effort on the part of individuals managing, operating, or using machine-readable data archives, data libraries and data services. The *Newsletter* reports on activities related to the production, acquisition, preservation, processing, distribution, and use of machine-readable data carried out be its members and others in the international social science community. Your contributions and suggestions for topics of interest are encouraged and welcomed. The views set forth by authors of articles contained in this publication are not necessarily those of IASSIST.

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IASSIST Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 3 (Summer 1979)

A LIBRARY-BASED REFERENCE SERVICE FOR MACHINE-READABLE CENSUS DATA: THE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

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The Census of Canada is a prime source for the demographic, social, economic and housing data used in social science research. Only a small proportion of the available census data is published in hard-copy form. If we add to this the growing use of computers for data analysis we can see that the machine-readable (M-R) version of the census is becoming increasingly more important to researchers. The library is the major depository of information on the university campus with the librarian acting as an available intermediary between the patron's informational needs and the library's resources. This paper will attempt to examine the place of the M-R census within the academic library. This will be followed by a discussion of the potential problems and pitfalls which librarians and researchers alike may encounter in making use of the M-R census.

THE M-R CENSUS AND THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY

The Census of Canada first became available in M-R form in 1961 with the production of the User Summary Tapes (U.S.T.). In 1971 the Public Use Sample Tapes (P.U.S.T.) were produced in response to the researcher's need for micro-data. For those libraries which had access to the M-R census tapes the referencing of the patron's request for census information required a consideration, on the part of the librarian, of both the hard-copy and the M-R census resources.

The importance of the latter is evident in the following situations:

1. The requested data is not abailable in a printed publication but may be retrieved from a census tape. Since the census bulletins provide summary data for a limited number of standard geographic regions, they are unable to satisfy data requestes for small municipalities, subdivisions of these municipalities, or user-created geographic areas. City planning districts are an example of the latter. The major feature of the U.S.T. (enumeration area series) is that the record is based upon the enumeration area (E.A.). This is the smallest geographic unit of analysis allowed by the principle of confidentiality which governs the dissemination of census data. Furthermore, since E. A. boundaries never cross those of larger recognized statisti-

cal areas, data at the E. A. level may be aggregated to obtain information for an unlimited number of regions not covered by the printed sources.

2. The requested data is available in a printed publication and will be subject to subsequent statistical analysis. The use of the hard-copy resources requires that the user manually input the data into an electronic calculator or other data entry device. This can be both time-consuming and subject to human error. On the other hand, the M-R counterpart enables the user to input the desired data quickly and efficiently into any of the statistical software packages which are available on the university's computer facility. For example, in order to employ SPSS[1] with a census tape one simply has to include a job control language (JCL) statement which will define the tape and file specifications to the SPSS programme.

The above examples illustrate the inherent flexibility of M-R census data compared with hard-copy. Since the M-R census is more capable of satisfying certain types of user requests for census information, it should be considered by librarians as a natural extension of the library's hard-copy holdings. A survey was recently conducted of government documents librarians in Canadian universities in order to discover the extent to which the M-R census was actually employed in practice. Data gathered from this survey was then correlated with information obtained from Statistics Canada on the actual number of M-R census tape acquisitions by Candadian universities.[2]

The results of the survey are as follows:

a) Statistics Canada information revealed that 35 universities had acquired some of the M-R census tapes (P.U.S.T. or U.S.T.). Forty-six per cent of these institutions can be classified as having major holdings. In response to the question, "Do you have any machine-readable census tapes on your campus?", 44% of the respondents with census tape holdings answered "no". (Tables 1,2) Surprisingly, this figure increases for those institutions with major holdings.

b) Respondents who answered "yes" to the above question were asked to submit a list of their holdings. Thirty-three per cent of the respondents did not provide as complete a description as indicated by the Statistics Canada information.

c) Furthermore, these respondents were asked, "Who processes the user's request for information from tape?". The majority response was the computer centre (33%), followed by the data archive (20%) through the co-operative effort of the library and the computer centre (13). The remaining 33% responded with a variation of the user himself, with or without the assistance of faculty members in certain departments. (i.e. geography or sociology).

TABLE 1

Do you have any machine-readable census tapes on your campus?

		SIZE OF HOLDINGS		
		MAJOR	OTHER	TOTAL
Response	YES	8	7	56% (15)
	NO	7	5	44% (12)
				100% (27)

These observations clearly indicate that the overwhelming majority of academic libraries are not actively involved in providing user access to the M-r census resources which are located in the computer facility's tape library. Either the library is not aware of the existence of the M-R census tapes or, if it is, the processing of the data from tape is performed by a campus facility other than the library. According to Statistics Canada information, the M-R census tapes were rarely ordered by the library. Requests were made by either the computer centre or by individual faculty members. This could possibly account for the library's position with respect to the M-R census. On the other hand, it is more likely that this is merely a reflection of the library's traditional indifference towards M-R information including data files and computer programmes. The addition of a chapter on M-R data files in the latest edition of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACRII) should foster a willingness on the part of the library to accept the university's M-R resources as a legitimate part of the library's holdings.

TABLE 2

Survey Response Rate

Survey Response Rate:

		SIZE OF HOLDINGS		
		MAJOR	OTHER	TOTAL
Response	RESPONDING	15	12	77% (27)
	NO RESPONSE	1	7	23% (8)
				100% (35)

The emergence of the data archive at some universities was a response to a need for a centralized campus facility for M-R data files. Where this did not occur, the computer centre's staff provided user support for accessing the M-R files. It is unlikely that either the data archive or the computer centre staff are capable of providing the level of reference service dicated by the M-R census -- in particular the User Summary Tapes. This is evident in the case of the patron who has no programming experience and whose request for information requires massaging the data from tape.

Initially, the source required to satisfy the patron's request, either the hard-copy or the M-R resources must be determined. The multi-faceted subject content of a census request (this will be discussed later) requires that the reference person has direct access to a broad range of support documentation in order to make this decision. Depending on the nature of the patron's request this could include the use of some or all of the following: census or other maps,[3] Statistics Canada Working Papers which provide detailed descriptions of particular census concepts,[4] classification manuals,[5] data dictionaires,[6] the entire hard-copy census collection including some government publications issued by departments other than Statistics Canada,[7] and the individual M-R record descriptions. Neither the data archive nor the computer centre would be willing to assume the responsibility of building a vast special collection of support documentation, particularly if you consider that the majority of these publications are already a part of the library's government documents holdings.

Furthermore, the actual delivery of census information to the patron appears to lie outside of the bounds of their user support services. The distinction should be made between primary and secondary data reference. The former refers to the action which provides the patron with the information which will directly satisfy his query, whereas, the latter merely enables the patron to access a body of data. Subsequent manipulation of this data is required to obtain the desired information. The programming assistance provided by the computer centre staff and the transfer of entire data files to a patron's disc area by the data archive are both examples of secondary data reference. In either case, the patron is provided with the means for obtaining the desired information but not with the information itself. An attempt to expand their services to include primary data reference would not be reasonable in light of their need to acquire adequate support documentation.

The library has the personnel and the resources to provide a primary data reference service for the M-R census. The success of this venture depends on the following conditions:

1. The university community must recognize thelibrary as the resource centre for all census information, M-R and hard-copy. Thus, the library should be prepared to promote its expanded service by conducting several information and training seminars for faculty, staff and students on the availability and use of the M-R census.

2. The library will need to take an inventory of the M-R census tapes currently available on campus and should co-ordinate the future acquisition of tapes. Statistics Canada information indicated that 25% of the institutions with major holdings had acquired multiple copies of the tapes, an unnecessary added expense if you consider that the tapes are stored in the computer centre's tape library. At these institutions tape requests were made by as many as 8 departments.

3. The majority of the libraries have a hard-copy computer terminal which they can use to acces the university's computer. However, the processing of user requests will require some staff training in elementary programming. An introductory course in a programming language such as PL/1 will more than satisfy the computer expertise necessary for massaging data from tape. A mini-session on the use of a statistical package such as SAS would also be helpful.

A library-based reference service for the M-R census has distinct advantages for the census user. First, the patron's request is directed to an integrated hard-copy and M-R census collection. Second, the request is processed by a reference librarian who is qualified in the art of query negotiation. The remainder of this paper will focus upon the problems which may arise in the referencing and use of the M-R census.

THE M-R CENSUS: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Thelogical analysis of a typical census query into its component parts can provide us with a framework for comprehending the underlying problems associated with referencing census summary data. Statistics Canada has developed the PQRST classification as the basis of an indexing and retrieval system for census data.[8] It is established on the premise that a census datum is analysable into a distinct number of facets, namely, population or universe (P), question or population variable (G), respone or categories of the variable (R), space or geographic area (S), and time (T).

What is the number of females aged 65+ living in Oxford County in 1976? The "count" facet has been added because raw census data is modified during processing into its published form. The nature and extent of these modifications affect the matching of a census query with the available data. Each facet can then be analyzed in terms of the problems it may generate in the use of M-R census data.

1. Count: Information on the U.S.T. represents a tally of the occurrence of a phenomenon in social or physical reality. The reliability of published census data is affected by the use of sampling and random rounding techniques in the collection and processing of the data. For every census only a fraction of the households receives the entire long from questionnaire (1961 = 1:5, 1971 = 1:3). The remainder are sent a subset of these questions (short form). A comparison of short form and long form data may reveal discrepancies for certain varaibles due to sampling. In addition, the sampling representation and the weighting procedures used to tabulate summary counts from sampled data will affect the validity of particular tabulations.[9]

   Random rounding is a statistical technique applied to most raw summary data to insure the confidentiality of personal information.[10] In essence, it is a procedure which rounds a number up or down in accordance with a pre-determined probability fraction. The negative effect of random rounding upon data reliability is directly proportional to the size of the geographic area under investigation. Table 3 was tabulated by aggregating data at the E. A. level and clearly illustrates the precaution which should be taken in utilizing data from low frequency cells.

2. Population: Each census tabulation provides summary information for the entire universe being surveyed or a defined class within that universe. Thus, we find information on families in the demographic census, dwellings in the housing census and census farms in the agricultural census. The formation of a class may be the result of pre-coordinating two or more elementary classes (e.g. families in rented dwellings, non-economic). Care must be taken to comprehend the defining principles of a particular class since the census definition may differ radically from

TABLE 3

Total Population by Age Groups by Sex for Mersea Township, Ontario.

SEX	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-99	100+
	AGE GROUPS									
Male	175	165	170	135	90	50	20	0	0	0
Female	160	190	130	110	75	50	10	0	5	0
Total *1	335	340	305	230	140	70	5	5	5	0
Total *2	335	355	300	245	165	100	30	0	5	0

→ Reliability decreases

* Total 1 is from the tape.

Total 2 represents my addition of male and female.

that of the library patron. For example, the family may be defined as either the census family or the economic family.[11] Furthermore, the definition of a class may change (e.g. the census farm in 1976). The "Dictionary of the 1971 Census Terms"[12] provides a detailed description for each class and includes cross-references to the 1966 and 1961 censuses for changes in definitions. Descriptions of the 1976 census terms are found in the introductions of the corresponding hard-copy publications.

3. Question: The number and types of questions asked vary from one census to another. Certain questions are added or deleted from a census as a result of the social pressure exerted by various interest groups (e.g. household facilities).[13] Since question varaibles are subject to frequent changes in definition the same precautions as described for the population class will apply.

4. Response: The level of specificity of a response set for a question variable may vary from one tabulation to another. For example, the response set for age may be single years or 5-year age groups depending on the size of the geographic area under examination. In addition, the use of a particular response set may require an in-depth understanding of the principles underlying the formation of response categories. For example, the response set for "occupation" is based on the "Canadian Classification and Dictionary of Occupations".[14] Should the foundation of a response set become modified (as was the case with "occupation" between 1961 and 1971) the impact of those changes upon the comparability of the response categories would have to be examined.[15]

5. Space: The 1976 U.S.T. (E.A. series) allows for 19 levels of geographic identification ranging from the province (region) down to the enumeration area. Depending on the geographic level of analysis, the space facet can create the greatest number of problems with respect to the comparability of data from one census to another. A geographic area may be subject to the following changes:

   a) Boundary - This could range from a minor shift in boundary between two areas to complete annexation or amalgamation and could result in the creation of a new area or the dissolution of an old one.

   b) Name - A geographic area may undergo a change in name or status as the result of a major realignment of boundaries. Witness the recent emergence of the "regional municipality" which replaced certain counties in the province of Ontario.

c) Code - A geographic area is identified in the M-R census via an assigned code. The introduction of the "Standard Geographical Classification" in 1975 produced a complete revision of these codes in the 1976 census.[16]

The identification of these potential changes is hampered by the fact that a geographic level of analysis may lie within the jurisdictional control of one of a number of government bodies. For example, E.A. and census tract boundaries are determined by Statistics Canada, whereas municipal boundaries are within provincial control. Since there is no single document which describes these geographic changes in the required level of detail one is forced to consult the appropriate publications of the respective government departments and agencies.

The "Official Lists" of each census identify geographic areas in terms of E.A.'s.[17] Theoretically, this would enable a user to create a comparable area over census years. Unfortunately, correspondence lists for enumeration areas reveal that the nature of the boundary modifications do not permit the identification of equivalent units in all cases.[18] Statistics Canada does provide special tabulations for user-specified areas from the Census Master Data File should this become necessary.

d) Time: A major census is conducted every 10 years witha mini-census occurring at the 5-year interval. The next major census will be in 1981. It is sufficient to note that the mini-census contains only the core demographic questions and some additional housing or economic questions.

CONCLUSION

The first section of this paper described the current situation surrounding the accessibility of the M-R census at Canadian universities and made a case for the creation of a centralized census data reference service within the library. The discussion of the problems related to census data use underscored the need for a library or information professional to assist the researcher in the acqui-

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND

ROUND II DELPHI QUESTIONNAIRE

The success of this project will depend on the extent to which IASSIST members respond to this questionnaire. As of the publication of this issue of the *Newsletter* we had received only a limited number of responses. *Please read and respond to this questionnaire.* Your help and cooperation will be appreciated.

ROUND II DELPHI QUESTIONNAIRE INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

In the last issue of the Newsletter you were asked to respond to Round I of a Delphi study designed to aid our thinking about future developments relating to the distribution and archiving of machine readable data. That questionnaire was completely open-ended and was structured to elicit the ideas and concerns (in a number of categories) of the members of IASSIST. The responses from Round I were used in the development of the questionnaire presented in this issue -- a closed questionnaire consisting of forty-five "event" statements.

For this Round of the Delphi we are asking that you respond to each event statement with three different ratings or "Questions" (designated Question 1, Question 2, and Question 3). Questions 1 and 3 are seven point rating scales extending from "Low" to "High". Question 2 requests that you make an estimate of the Year in which the event will take place or begin. With these three Questions we are attempting to do the following:

1. Assess the importance of each event to the members of IASSIST (Question 1).
2. Forecast the approximate date by which the event will occur or begin to change (Question 2).
3. Estimate the likelihood that the event will actually occur (Question 3).

When the data are evaluated, median ratings on each of the three questions will be used as an estimate of the collective viewpoint of the IASSIST membership.

When using the seven point ratings scales for Questions 1 and 3 the scales should be interpreted as follows:

1. Very low importance or likelihood.
2. Moderately low importance or likelihood.
3. Low importance or likelihood.
4. Neutral importance or likelihood (a 50/50 chance).
5. High importance or likelihood.
6. Moderately high importance or likelihood.
7. Very high importance or likelihood.

To use the scales, simply CIRCLE the number which best approximates your viewpoint concerning the event statement.

Our primary concern is in forecasting directions in the nineteen eighties so your estimates of dates should generally be in the time period 1980 - 1990. It may be, however, that for a particular event you believe that the date will be later than 1990 -- if so, indicate the date. If you think the event will never happen, enter "9999" as the date. If you cannot make an estimate, enter "0000". Please try to make an estimate for each event statement.

We have attempted to make each event statement as clear as possible and as unambiguous as possible. One of the failings of the Delphi Method, however, is that it is occasionally necessary to use terms such as "Expanded use of" or "A significant increase in" or a "A precipitous increase in". Such terms are, obviously, not very precise. With the present Delphi when we use terms such as those listed we are attempting to convey the idea of clear and unmistakable changes in direction from any current trend. Since the term "precipitous" is stronger than the term "significant", "precipitous" implies a sharper departure from any current trend than does "significant". Both terms, however, imply a departure from any current norms. While this explanation of terminology is not entirely adequate, for the present purposes we believe the simplicity of the approach outweighs the complexity of alternative forms.

An additional problem which often occurs with Delphi studies is that one event may be dependent on one or more other events, yet the rater is asked to respond to each statement in isolation from other statements. There is a technique, called cross-impact analysis, which avoids this problem by requiring judgments on a single item in relationship with other items. The problem with cross-impact analysis for the present study is that the complexity of the questionnaire is greatly expanded. Furthermore, without some data of the sort we are attempting to acquire with this quesstionnaire, it is difficult to construct a cross-impact study. Please make every effort to rate each of the events, notwithstanding the problem of ratings in isolation from other events.

At the end of the questionnaire are a few demographic items which will assist in the analysis of the data. In addition, there are some blank spaces provided for comments and for the suggestion of additional items. If you wish to comment on the study and the directions in which we may be moving, please do so. Such comments will aid us in the substantive analysis of the data.

Finally, when you have completed the questionnaire, please place it in an envelope and mail it to:

Thomas Wm. Madron, Editor
IASSIST Newsletter
Academic Computing and Research Services
245 Grise Hall
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Please respond to the questionnaire as quickly as possible. We would like to present our findings in the next issue. If you live outside the United States, airmailing the questionnaire would be helpful. First class postage is required within the United States.

Thanks for your help and cooperation.

QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3
HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS EVENT TO THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE?	ABOUT WHAT YEAR WILL THIS EVENT TAKE PLACE OR BEGIN?	WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE?

KEY 1 LOI=LOW IMPORTANCE HII=HIGH IMPORTANCE
KEY 3 LOL=LOW LIKELIHOOD HIL=HIGH LIKELIHOOD

1. A significant increase in the use of proprietary restrictions on the dissemination of data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

2. Expanded use of restrictions (copyrights, restrictive contracts) on the use of software used for archival and analytical purposes.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

3. An expansion of the use of "non-standard" formats for disseminating data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

4. A decline in the ability of archivists to promote the use of standardized systems for defining data elements (variables).

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

5. A decline in the ability of archivists to promote the use of standardized systems for classifying and retrieving machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. A precipitous increase in the amount of machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3
HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS EVENT TO THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE?	ABOUT WHAT YEAR WILL THIS EVENT TAKE PLACE OR BEGIN?	WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE?

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7. As the quantity of machine readable data increases, a growing inability to deliver information to appropriate users.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8. Rising labor costs affect the ability to archive and disseminate machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

9. Rising energy costs affect the ability to archive and disseminate machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

10. The generation and dissemination of standard indexes for machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

11. Growth in the importance and use of non-numeric machine readable data files.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

12. An expansion of cooperative efforts to develop union lists of machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3
HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS EVENT TO THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE?	ABOUT WHAT YEAR WILL THIS EVENT TAKE PLACE OR BEGIN?	WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE?

KEY 1 LOI=LOW IMPORTANCE HII=HIGH IMPORTANCE
KEY 3 LOL=LOW LIKELIHOOD HIL=HIGH LIKELIHOOD

13. Expansion of storage space requirements for data files.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

14. Standardization of criteria for evaluating the importance of data files for inclusion in an archive.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

15. The rising cost of traditional methods for disseminating information (paper, printing) alter methods and techniques of dissemination.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

16. Expansion of the variety of users requiring machine readable data files.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

17. Expansion of commercial archival services for machine readable data.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

18. Development of more varied funding techniques for the development of machine readable data archives.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3
HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS EVENT TO THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE?	ABOUT WHAT YEAR WILL THIS EVENT TAKE PLACE OR BEGIN?	WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE?

KEY 1 LOI=LOW IMPORTANCE HII=HIGH IMPORTANCE
KEY 3 LOL=LOW LIKELIHOOD HIL=HIGH LIKELIHOOD

19. Increased need to capture governmentally generated machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

20. Increased need to capture commercially generated machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

21. Expansion of techniques for more broadly disseminating data to user groups at the local (or operational) level.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

22. Lower demand for machine readable data as a by-product of a poor economic climate for higher education.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

23. Expanded information retrieval services through the development of specialized keyword dictionaries.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

24. The growth of limitations for computer access by end users.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3
HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS EVENT TO THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE?	ABOUT WHAT YEAR WILL THIS EVENT TAKE PLACE OR BEGIN?	WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE?

KEY 1 LOI=LOW IMPORTANCE HII=HIGH IMPORTANCE
KEY 3 LOL=LOW LIKELIHOOD HIL=HIGH LIKELIHOOD

25. Increased need for access to machine readable data files through technical systems which are transparent to the end user.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

26. Expanded training of potential end users concerning the availability and use of machine readable data files.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

27. Dissemination of data files through networks rather than by tapes or other magnetic media.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

28. Establishment of centralized and hierarchical data networks to improve access and to reduce cost of access to machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

29. Expanded use of microfilm or microfiche techniques in the dissemination of documentation and other relevant information.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

30. Use of cassette tapes or diskettes used in conjunction with microcomputers (or with larger mainframes) for the dissemination of information.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3
HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS EVENT TO THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE?	ABOUT WHAT YEAR WILL THIS EVENT TAKE PLACE OR BEGIN?	WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE?

KEY 1 LOI=LOW IMPORTANCE HII=HIGH IMPORTANCE
KEY 3 LOL=LOW LIKELIHOOD HIL=HIGH LIKELIHOOD

31. The use of multi-media technology (computer/television/telephone) for the dissemination of machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

32. Through the use of computer generated microfiche, dissemination of materials not heretofore available (entire library catalogues, for example).

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

33. Increasing impact of microcomputers on the methods for distibuting machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

34. Development of hierarchically organized networking software allowing the use of microcomputers (or intelligent terminals) in the process of disseminating machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

35. Expanded deployment of terminals in libraries, places of business, homes, etc., to assist in the accessing of data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

36. Development of a "universal", natural-language oriented, method for accessing machine readable data.

LOI HII LOL HIL
YOUR ESTIMATE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3
HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS EVENT TO THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE?	ABOUT WHAT YEAR WILL THIS EVENT TAKE PLACE OR BEGIN?	WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE?

KEY 1 LOI=LOW IMPORTANCE HII=HIGH IMPORTANCE
KEY 3 LOL=LOW LIKELIHOOD HIL=HIGH LIKELIHOOD

37. Greater concern for problems of human engineering in the production of equipment designed for data retrieval.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

38. Development of software and hardware for dealing more automatically with natural language materials.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

39. Expanded deployment of font-independent readers for converting printed materials into machine readable form.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

40. Expanded concern on the part of machine readable data archivists with commercial and governmental data needs.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

41. Expansion of the scope of IASSIST to meet the demands of users other than researchers.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

42. Substantial resources devoted to the development of less expensive methods of information delivery.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3
HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS EVENT TO THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE?	ABOUT WHAT YEAR WILL THIS EVENT TAKE PLACE OR BEGIN?	WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE?

KEY 1 LOI=LOW IMPORTANCE HII=HIGH IMPORTANCE
KEY 3 LOL=LOW LIKELIHOOD HIL=HIGH LIKELIHOOD

43. Improved understanding of and techniques for dealing with cross-national data delivery and dissemination.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

44. Increased need for data security as a byproduct of computer oriented criminal activites.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

45. Increased difficulty in disseminating machine readable data as a byproduct of privacy legislation.

LOI HII YOUR ESTIMATE LOL HIL
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ( ) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Are There other Events of Importance?

46. ____

____

47. ____

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48. ____

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49. ____

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50. ____

____

51. In what region do you reside?

[ ] 1. Western Europe
[ ] 2. Eastern Europe
[ ] 3. Canada
[ ] 4. The United States
[ ] 5. Other (Where)____

52. Institutional Affiliation:

[ ] 1. Academic Institution
[ ] 2. Commercial Organization
[ ] 3. Governmental Agency
[ ] 4. Independent data archive
[ ] 5. Other (What)____

53. Regardless of the type of agency for which you work, are you employed within a department which has:

[ ] 1. Primary objectives other than data archiving?
[ ] 2. Does primarily data archiving and servicing?

54,55. How many employees devote substantial amounts of time to data archiving? [_____]

Comments

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sition of census data. Further research is required in the design of bibliographical tools such as the PQRST classification which would facilitate the use of this invaluable source of social science information.

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17. Statistics Canada. *Official List*, 1971.

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IASSIST NEWS

By the Seat of my Pants

Alice Robbin

On July 22, 1979, Stein Rokkan passed away. For three decades, perhaps longer than that, it has been his creative ideas, unceasing activity, enthusiasm, and generous spirit which provided the impetus for the development of a worldwide network of data archives for the social sciences. All his work was dedicated to interdisciplinary types of activities which could lead towards internationalization of the social sciences. Stein Rokkan's fertile and creative ideas for providing data services in different national settings bore fruit in many countries throughout the world. He was a leading proponent of the need for professionalization of data services' specialists. He was among the first members of IASSIST and, since its inception, closely followed our efforts to create a truly international vehicle for data archivists and librarians, in fact, all those involved in some way with computer-readable statistical data. He leaves a legacy of institutions and individuals committed to enhancing the utility of social science quantitative research. IASSIST is also his legacy. I cannot adequately express the loss that so many of us feel for the passing of this wonderful man. I only hope that in some small way, we in IASSIST will be able to complete some of the work he began in the international social sicnece data services arena.

Interest/Action Group Reports

Process-Produced Data Action Group: Directory of Directories

This is a "Canadian version" of the list presented in Volume I, Nr 1 (Fall 1977) pp. 28-30. The PPDAG is preparing a version for data directories outside the continental North American, which will include names and addresses of persons to contact where there is no published directory. Additions or corrections to this Canadian list or to the previously published American list should be forwarded to Don Harrison, Machine-Readable Archives Division (NNR) The National Archives, Washington, DC 20408, USA.

York University, Data Bank Information Systems, Candian Social Science Data Catalog, Second edition, November 1976. Contains a listing of those data sets, held by the Institute for Behavioral Research at York University, which may be distributed to users outside York University. Write Ms. Lisa Lasko, Information Systems Manager, IBR, Room 269, Administrative Studies Bldg., York University, 4700 Keele St., Downsview, Ontario.

Ontario, Government of, Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, Index of Statistical Files in the Ontario Government, 1976. Many of the entries in the catalog refer to "papers files" and publications. No indication is given anywhere about the degree to which microdata in files are available to researchers. For more information, write: Mr. S. N. Sharma, Central

Statistical Services, 9th Floor, 56 Wellesley St. W., Toronto, Ontario.

Canada, Government of, Public Archives of Canada, Machine-Readable Archives Division, *Drug Use Files* (1978). Catalogue provides information about 16 files relating to drug use, available from the Machine-Readable Archives Division. Wirte: Machine-Readable Archives, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N3

Canada, Government of, Data Clearing House for the Social Sciences, Social Science Data Inventory, (1st. Edition, 1977). Contains listings of about 900 data files held in Canadian data archives. The inventory provides basic information about each data file, including some information regarding the availability of the data to secondary users. In addition, listings are indexed by primary investigator, title and subject. For further information, write: Referral Officer, Data Clearing House for the Social Sciences, 151 Slater St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5N1.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Zentrum fur historische Sozialforschung e.V. quantum-forschungsstelle

data services for historical social research

The Zentrum fur historische Sozialforschung (Center for Historical Social Research) has received a grant from the Deutsche Forschungs-gemeinschaft (German Research Foundation to

1. develop methods and techniques for archiving and for secondary analysis of machine-readable historical data
2. archive machine-readable historical data
3. provide assistance in creating new machine-readable data files.

This project extends the services already provided by the Zentrum fur historische Sozialforschung and by QUANTUM cf. QUANTUM INFORMATION No. 4, October 1977). It shall further strengthen the infrastructure for quantitative historical social research in providing for data, methods and technical advice.

In the past, "QUANTUM researchers" have already been asked whether they would agree in depositing their machine-readable data in an archive for historical social research. The members of QUANTUM have now a service organization that will take care of their data needs for secondary analysis and provide assistance in creating new comparative data sets. This new activity is also a first response to the demands put forward by the recent business meeting of QUANTUM.

Further services of the Zentrum include:

1. training of "unexperienced" collectors of quantitative historical data (summer school)
2. development of teaching packages
3. supporting historians and sociologists in collecting and preparing machine-readable data

files, in acquiring existing data files, or in analyzing quantitative historical data

4. assistance in creating machine-readable comparative (in time and space) data sets.

The project is carried out with technical assistance by the Zentralarchiv fur empirische Sozialforschung of the University of Cologne.

Anyone interested in using these new services should write to:

ZENTRUM FOR HISTORISCHE SOZIALFORSCHUNG HERBERT REINKE
UNIVERSITATSSTRASSE 20 D-5000
K O L N 41 WEST GERMANY

International Federation of Data Organizations (IFDO)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The IFDO Symposium on Joint Databases for Regional Analysis and Computer Cartography will take place at the Centro Studi di Scienza Politica at the University of Turin form 17 through 22 March, 1980. The Symposium is partly financed under a grant from the Stiftung Volks- wagenwerk, partly by allocations from institutions in Turin.

Participation is in principle restricted to scholars and administrators ready and willing to prepare reports on the development and utilization of computerized databases at local-regional levels either in their own countries or across several countries. Travel grants can only be made to participants submitting reports on developments of direct relevance to the themes of the Symposium: for details see the attached Timetable.

The purpose of the Symposium is to review progress country by country in the field of database development for regional analysis and computer cartography and to find out how far it is possible to go toward the establishment of a joint European file of data on changes in regional disparities over shorter or longer spans of time. In the first round we hope to develop a small, 80-100 variable, database for regions at Levels II or III (see below) from 1945-50 onwards. In a further round we hope to extend the project by going back in time, possibly as far as to the years before World War I.

Some work has already been done to prepare such a project but much still remains to be done. David HANDLEY of the University of Geneva has established a file of recent statistics at Level II for the EEC-Nine: this file has been checked for errors by a group in Bergen and will be used in a first effort to describe core-periphery structures in W. Europe (a rough draft of a paper on this theme prepared by Pamela ADAMS and Stein ROKKAN will be sent to confirmed participants in the Symposium). The Bergen group hopes to expand this file to cover a number of other countries in Western Europe but needs your help in locating data over longer spans of time. The Norwegian Social Science Data Services have received a grant from the Nordic Research Councils for a three-year project to build up a consolidated database for time series at regional Level III for Denmark, Finland,Iceland, Norway and Sweden (see the report by ROKKAN and WAGTSKJOLD in EPD No. 30, March

1979). The purpose of the IFDO Symposium in Turin is to generalize these initiatives: we want to find out where we stand country by country and we want to develop precise plans for the development of a first joint file of regional statistics.

To make sure that we can develop a joint database of some importance for comparative regional research we have to ask each participant to reply in some detail to each of these questions:

1. At what level of aggregation will it be a) easiest in terms of data access, b) most meaningful for purposes of analysis, to concentrate a cross-national database?

2. Which of the variables can be covered at Level II or III for at least three time points for your country since 1945?

3. What has been done to computerize aggregate data for lower levels of aggregation in your country? Please specify units, ranges of varaibles and spans of time and indicate where the data are located and how they can be accessed.

4. What has been done to develop facilities for computer cartography in your country: by whom, for which level of aggregation, for what sorts of database?

5. What has been done to counter the problems caused by changes in the numbers and boundaries of units at different levels of aggregation? Which levels have been the most stable over given periods and which units cannot be used for longer time series without major recalculations or regroupings?

We cannot contribute to travel costs from the Volkswagen grant unless your answer these questions in some detail or submit a substantial paper on the design and the findings of research of this type for one or more countries. Obviously we shall also welcome broader-treatments of methodological issues in the use of aggregate data at different territorial levels.

The NSD, Bergen, is in charge of the preparatory work until February, 1980. The Turin Centro will set up a local committee responsible for hotel bookings, document xeroxing and other arrangements in Turin.

The deadline for short summaries of reports/papers is set at 1 October, 1979. The deadline for the submission of papers for xeroxing in Turin is 1 February, 1980.

Please let us know soonest whether you can contribute to the Symposium. Please address all correspondence to Bjorn HENRICHSEN at the NSD, Christiesgt. 15-19, N-5014 BERGEN-UNIV., Norway with a copy to Professor Guido MARTINOTTI

at ADPSS, 4 via Cantoni,
20122 MILAN, Italy.

Seminars on the 1980 United States Census

E. J. (Bud) Steinfeld was the invited speaker at a seminar attended by IASSIST members and guests at UCLA on the West Coast on September 19, 1979. Bud is the Bureau of Census local representative based in Los Angeles and the topic presented (what else!) a 1980 Census update.

A round table discussion session was planned to follow the presentation of the speaker. Topics chosen for this first round table discussion were meant to define the interests of the group, to determine the group desires for future speakers, interest groups, round table discussion topics and meeting locations.

This group get-together was planned and organized by IASSIST members, Elizabeth (Libbie) Stephenson, Institute for Social Science Research, UCLA and Jackie McGee, The Rand Corporation and IASSIST membership committee chairman.

IASSIST members or anyone interested in participating in future seminars should contact Libbie Stephenson at (213) 825-0711, Ext. 241 or Jakie mcGee at (213) 393-0411, Ext. 7351 or 403.

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international association for social science
information service and technology
l'association internationale pour les
services et techniques d'information
en sciences sociales

OBJECTIVES

Encourage and support the establishment at local and national levels of information centers for data base reference, maintenance, and dissemination

Foster international dissemination and exchange of information on significant developments in information centers for statistical and textual machine-readable data bases

Coordinate on an international level programs, projects, and general procedural efforts which provide an international forum for the discussion of problems relating to information centers

Promote the development of professional standards and encourage the establishment of training for data center personnel

ACTIVITIES AND MEMBER PARTICIPATION

Members participate in Action Groups organized to address problems in the following areas: Data Archive Registry, Data Archive Development, Data Acquisition, Data Documentation, Classification, Process-Produced Data, and Data Organization and Management

The Action Group activities include development of a registry of data libraries, archives, and information services; writing of a guide to providing social science data services for research, policy and planning purposes; development of standards for data acquisition, documentation of sample survey and process-produced data, bibliographic control and citation of social science machine-readable data, and the relationship of study design to data management; and, creating a directory of catalogues which list machine-readable data files

Other activities include regional and international workshops, conferences, seminars and training sessions.

PUBLICATIONS

IASSIST *Newsletter*: A quarterly publication on activities relating to the production, acquisition, preservation, processing, distribution, and utilization of machine-readable data in the international social science community

IASSIST *Conference Proceedings*

MEMBER BENEFITS

IASSIST *Newsletter*

S.S. Data; A Newsletter of Social Science Archival Acquisitions (a quarterly publication from the University of Iowa, describing social science data acquisitions around the world)

Special rates on other IASSIST publications

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT and CALL FOR PAPERS

iassist 1980

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON STATISTICAL DATA FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES: MANAGEMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND POLICY

1980 May 2-4
(Friday, Saturday, Sunday)*

Dupont Plaza Hotel
Washington, DC
USA

sponsored by

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international association for social science information service and technology
l'association internationale pour les services et techniques d'information en sciences sociales

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The objectives of IASSIST are to encourage the establishment of local, regional, and national centers for the collection, maintenance and distribution of statistical databases, and to provide an international forum for the discussion of the policies and problems relating to such information centers.

Papers on any relevant topic are solicited, but especially welcome are those that discuss the following broad topics. (Submission details are on the back of this page.)

1. Management and operation of local, regional, national or international data collection, distribution and archival agencies; their legislative, judicial or executive mandate; effects of mandatory response on data characteristics; confidentiality and appraisal policies or guidelines.
2. Impact of emerging technologies on the collection, distribution, use and archiving of statistical and textual data: very large storage devices, international digital communications networks, cable networks, analytical and graphical software, specialized database computers.
3. Major policy issues facing the collectors, distributors, users, and archivists of statistical and textual data: conflict between Data Protection Boards and/or Privacy Acts and the needs of governments and research; national limitations on transnational data flow; public (governmental) versus private (corporate) collection, distribution, use and preservation.

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*The 2½ day conference will be preceeded by one day of limited attendance workshop sessions on Thursday, 1980 May 1.

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES
ON STATISTICAL DATA FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES:
MANAGEMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY

1980 May 2-4

Washington, DC, USA

name ____________________

address ____________________

____

____

☐ I am not sure about attending, but please keep my name on your mailing list.

☐ Please send me registration and hotel reservatio forms when they become available.

☐ Please send me more information on the workshops preceeding IASSIST 1980.

☐ I intend to submit a paper whose tentative subject is:

____

____

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION TO:

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Program Schedule:

Intention to Submit: November 1, 1979
Paper Submission Deadline: January 1, 1980
Acceptance Notification: February 1, 1980
IASSIST 1980: May 2-4, 1980

The Organizing Committee is investigating the possibility of securing special travel arrangements for both American and international conference participants. Full details will be given at a later date.

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR
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